The Watergate Capter 8/22/72 HW

A funny thing is happening on the way to the covering-up. The liberals, especially in the prest, have fallen silent, but the conservatives are clammoring that something be done, now and loudly. Yesterday's Evans-Novack comun was pretty strong. James J. Kilpatrick, whose column I don't see, has made occasional comment on a TV panel show he does that probably gets minor syndication. He has a regular spot on CBS TV's a.m. news in a segment called "Spectrum". This morning he recapitulated the Republican financial connectiosnx with the caper and called for Nixon to be heard loud an clear, saying he is sure that the top boys are innocent and it must be established. The convervative clammor is comprehensible, for they fear that the later the exposure that will be made is made, the more it can influence the election. The liberal silence is not at all clear in its reasons for there would seem to be none, unless it is what is regarded as the long-range interest in The Establishment or of it.

Later 8/22 Explanation on Bob, bob-tailed in hurry to finish note without holding supper, for which I had to go to neighbor picking (hum!)corn: He was not on story. Someone else was. And he doesn't give orders. He was interested personally but I guess never found more time. I phoned him once or twice with tips but no callback.

Tonight's CBS TV news reported that not the Post alone but the LA Times had the story of the $500,000 mess. I don't see the LATimes and don't know if you do, but if you do I'd like to see if they have what Post didn't. Despite Art Kunkin's plug in Freep received from friend yesterday and read while looking at news (that's the kind of news), the Post has to date fallen far short of what they could have done.

Freed of CRIC has interesting conjecture in Freep: that ploy was to plant phoney documents. I'd like to be able to figure out the benefit, for they'd have to steal them back to use them and then they'd be crooks, which wouldn't help. If I could figure what they had in mind it might be a better idea than mine, that the manpower was for a heist.

If you haven't seen it, the Freep carried Tackwood's story of 8 months earlier of a secret operation to create disturbances at the San Diego convention to create sympathy for Nixon or excuses for worst. I knew he had given two names but couldn't get them. They are Martin and White. The White alias hasn't been used yet. Don't know if it is in one of Hunt's books, but it is an obvious code name for White House (as in man from). Also rather interesting is the sum he gave for a secret fund for repressive things:$10,000,000, which happens to equal the unaccounted funds collected before the deadline requiring detailed filings. I don't remember seeing it in the papers but Mae Brussell says in 8/72 Realist this was the work of Hunt's p.r. agency. I'm inclined to doubt, unless they handled it in years past.

I've been trying to get Jim to get court records, that is, filings except for 200 pp from repub. filings, but he hasn't. I can't think of that much xeroxing, and the courts make a nice profit, about 50¢ per page. The Demos must have filed some interesting things to which the reporters didn't tumble, not knowing backrgound. Best, HW